Learning Conversation Notes	
Name of Partner:	Date: September 15, 2005
Placer County Superior Court Courts STEP	
Number of Children Served:	<b>Ages:</b> 0 yr (5), 1 yr (12), 2 yr (15),
68	3 yr (10), 4 yr (13), 5 yr (13)
When Served:	Gender: Ethnicity:
March 2005 to Present	37-Male 51 - Caucasian
	31-Female 5 - African Amer.
	12 – Hispanic

**Conversation Participants:** Diane Bras, Conni Ward, Chris Trejo, Amy Rudd, Suzanne Feris, Judge Eugene Gini, Don Ferretti, Nancy Baggett, Michael Romero, Heidi Kolbe, Janey Crider, Janice Critchlow

#### Outcomes:

- Parents served through this program will communicate effectively with each other and their children, cooperatively co-parent, facilitate a more nurturing environment, and promote positive mental and emotional child development.
- Parents will demonstrate sustained ability to resolve parental conflict independent of the court, utilizing community resources as needed.

### **Performance Measures:**

- Demographics (number of 0-5 served by gender, age, ethnicity, and when services were provided.
- Placer Early Childhood Outcome Screens
- Client Exit Survey Summary
- Post graduation assessment of sustained ability to resolve conflict independent of the court (phone contact)

## What is this data telling us about achievement of outcomes?

The majority of abuse is emotional, rather than physical or sexual. 79% of parents have shown improvement in reducing the emotional abuse of their children.

Behavior modification for the abusive parent is a long, slow process because their current behaviors are so ingrained.

At the end of the screening process, only 2 children were at risk and they are now in CPS.

Appealing to the emotional development of their children helps parents to cooperate with the program and refocus their behaviors.

Regarding Indicator 10: While the children seem to be exhibiting healthy development, some still need help to maintain this indicator.

Regarding indicator 11 - Living in a safe stable and nurturing environment: At the time of second screen, the majority of children who received a 2 on the first screen have progressed to 3 or above, or regressed to a 1 (2 children).

The focus on the children helps parent participation in the program.

When the parents follow the structure of behavior (practical tools) as outlined by STEP, the stability of the environment increases.

When children see parents working together, the children can become "whole" instead of being split in half.

Majority of children in the program are improving due to educating parents and having parents focus on the welfare of the children.

#### Exit Survey

Most parents indicate things are better especially with reference to question 4,5 and 6 (these questions deal with parents as individuals rather than as a couple).

There is agreement between the parents that the home is a better environment even though they may still have couple issues.

Overall the exit survey indicates that communications between parents and their children are improving. Also, for the most part, couples rate themselves similar on the exit survey.

Regarding Question 7: There will be unsuccessful exits from STEP for various reasons. Even for these unsuccessful exits, if the court is more informed, the court is able to make better decisions for the protection of the children.

## In what ways will we apply what we have learned from our data?

Work with Mike to determine if there is a way to designate an exit field in outcome tracker that would allow the data to be filtered.

In some cases filing a non-detaining petition, is the most effective way to protect the children from emotional abuse.

Continue to collect the data separately for couples.

For question 8 of the follow-up survey, research the situation to determine if the situation is a positive or a negative (regarding returning to court).

For question 9 regarding use of community services, consider strategies for reporting at the next learning conversation.

Indicator 13 may indicate that involvement in the STEP program is reaching some children that are not currently involved in interactive enrichment activities or preschool. Perhaps filtering the data for these children can verify if this is true.

# Other points that were made during the conversation:

# **Next steps:**

Invite other partners such as therapists, parenting class presenters, etc. to attend future learning conversations.

On the exit survey add the question for parents, "What have you learned that makes you successful."

Next learning conversation February 23, 2006, 1-4:30.